



Georgia Department of Human Services
Aging Services | Child Support Services | Family & Children Services

**RULES OF THE
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 290-9-2
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES**

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

The Georgia Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Residential Child Care Licensing Unit (“Department”), proposes the adoption of rule amendments to Chapter 290-9-2, entitled “Rules and Regulations for Child-Placing Agencies,” of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Human Services. Proposed amendments affect rules 290-9-2-.01, 290-9-2-.04, and 290-9-2-.07 of the current child-placing agency rules set forth in Chapter 290-9-2. The proposed revisions were drafted by the Department with the goals of eliminating the need for providers to request waivers of certain regulatory requirements and making certain regulatory requirements less burdensome for providers where safe to do so.

Because the anticipated effect of the adoption of these rule amendments is to reduce regulatory burdens, it is not anticipated that the adoption of these rule amendments will place administrative burdens on charitable organizations in this state or require any new or expanded filing or reporting requirements or that would limit the ability of charitable organizations to solicit or collect funds.

It is not anticipated that the adoption of these rule amendments will impose excessive regulatory costs on persons or entities providing services under these rules. It is not foreseeable that any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendments can be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the duties required of the Department.

MAIN FEATURES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES: The amendments to the Rules and Regulations for Child-Placing Agencies, Chapter 290-9-2, include the following:

- **Rule 290-9-2-.01(x).** The definition of “foster family” or “foster home” has been amended by inserting the term “foster” to clarify that the foster family or foster home provides care and other services to no more than six **foster** children. The foster home

capacity in the current rule is interpreted to include foster children and all other children residing in the home. The definition has been further amended to note limited exceptions to the revised provision as outlined in the rules.

- **Rule 290-9-2-.04(9)(a)**. The minimum qualifications for a casework supervisor have been revised to include updates or clarifications regarding the areas of study in which a master's degree can be obtained to include special education, guidance counseling, social science, or a related field. This provision has also been amended to include a minimum requirement of one year of experience in a human services delivery field as it relates to child welfare. The minimum requirement of two years of casework experience in a child-placing agency has been deleted. Also, the rule adds a new provision that permits persons possessing a bachelor's degree in an area of study that includes social work, psychology, childhood education, special education, guidance counseling, behavioral or social science, or a related field with two years of paid work experience in a human services delivery field as it relates to child welfare to meet the minimum requirements for a casework supervisor.
- **Rule 290-9-2-.07(2)**. This rule has been amended by inserting the term "foster" to clarify that no more than six **foster** children may reside in the foster home. In addition, a new rule has been added that outlines exceptions that permit more than 6 foster children to reside in the foster home such as to allow a parenting youth in foster care to remain with the child of a parenting youth and to allow siblings to remain together. Also, a new rule has been added that requires the child-placing agency to consider and comply with sleeping arrangement requirements as outlined in the rules.